

Minutes
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
August 16, 2022

Chair Floyd called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sup Richard Floyd, Sup DeAnn Schatz, Sup Kurt Soderberg, Sup Frank Sherman, Sup David Chiabotti, Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte, Deputy Clerk Treasurer Gwen Potter and Larry McCray were in attendance.

Unless otherwise stated, all motions carried unanimously.

Agenda, Minutes and Communications List Approval

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Schatz to approve the agenda, as amended, (additions of watershed planning proposal, Greenwood-McGrath Ambulance study, Gloria Erickson to give a presentation on Community Wildfire Defense Grant, ATV meetings, August 16 Meeting. Motion carried

Gloria Erickson gave a brief presentation on the Community Wildfire Defense grant. Permission is needed from county to apply for grant for local communities. The township needs to show shovel ready projects that can utilize this grant funding. Townships should submit a one-page narrative on what the projects would be included with the grant application. Grant funding is for 5-year time period. The County needs to match 25% of the grant and the township doesn't need to match. Fire/ENCEP folks will come up with activities to add to the one-page narrative.

Sup Chiabotti moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 BOS meeting. Motion carried.

Communications List: Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the Communications List. Motion carried.

We will make donation to Northwoods Partners at a future meeting.

No donation will be made to the Cook veterans flag memorial.

Citizens' Concerns:

Concerns about standing hazardous fuels along powerlines where contractors sprayed to kill trees. Kurt will draft a letter to Lake Country Power expressing the township's concerns.

Reports

Clerk:

Candidate filing period has closed.

On August 18th the Clerk will be here from 3-5 pm for candidate withdrawal period.

File disposal list should be done in September for the supervisor's review. Clerk will review minutes and resolution duplicates to ensure they are on file before disposing of duplicates.

Treasurers Report:

Payroll was in the amount of \$3,831.09 and check numbers 10596-10608. Claims were in the amount of \$4110.51, claim numbers of 4458 (electronic), 4459-4472 and check numbers of 10609-10621, 10625.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Sup Chiabotti moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve payroll and claims. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds;

Trees have been planted by the Mesabi Trail. Some trees were planted under the powerline. This could pose a problem as they grow up. An irrigation system was dropped off from Gracie's Garden Center. There is still a question of who is responsible for setting up the system and maintaining the trees.

Emergency door has been repaired and new exit sign lights have been installed on the upper hall.

Sup Chiabotti moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to accept the bald eagle picture donated by Larry Anderson and for it to be displayed in the town hall. Motion carried

Fire:

Report on file.

Fire Department will purchase hose if funds are enough from the 9/11 walk hosted by the EMS/Fire Auxiliary.

Roads:

Spruce Street wasn't finished last year. Sup Floyd left a message for Jeff Schulze and told him about the hearing that the Kromer's could potentially stop the construction to finish Spruce Street. Sup Floyd asked Jeff Schulze to pause on the construction until after the hearing.

Sup Soderberg and Sherman said that the Kromer hearing is about the collection of monetary funds from damages rather than halting the construction of the Spruce Street.

Dorem drive topography analyzed. JPJ consulting firm has said that they would have Dorem Drive repairs completed by winter. There are two concerns as to why Dorem Drive may not get completed by winter; if a culvert cannot be acquired and a contractor may not be available to complete the work.

Monica Curtiss said that we may be able to go in on State of Minnesota contract to acquire a culvert for Dorem Drive.

The township has requested a FEMA grant to repair the road and it sounds likely that it will be approved. The township may not need to pay for all of the job if the FEMA Grant comes through.

County sent notification that we need to electronically apply for snowplowing through county contract. Roads that are too narrow to be plowed by the county will be plowed by a contractor hired by the Township.

Surface stabilization was done a month ago. There was an error on the bill and Sup Floyd has asked for a corrected bill. At this time, he has not heard back from Trimark.

There will be a lift on gravel portions Trygg Road, Walsh Road and Mud Creek Road with class five that will be impregnated with a chloride solution. St. Louis County will not be resurfacing a portion of Trygg road because the county says it is too narrow to turn their trucks around.

Land, website and broadband:

Treehouse broadband grant application on behalf of the township has been submitted. Sup Soderberg will forward a copy of the grant application to the board when he receives it.

Legislation has provided funding for an ATV campground so the DNR has it in the plan to build the campground. Sup Soderberg is concerned about if the campground gets built there will be more use of public use of trails within the township.

Sup Soderberg suggests that area residents should be asking “why does there have to be an ATV campground”?

Emergency Preparedness and water:

Sup Sherman talked to someone from Ely who said they were impressed with the evacuation drill.

Old Business:**Parkland committee recommendations:**

Attorney has given the opinion that the recommendations are appropriate for public comment. Park Land recommendations will be posted on the website for viewing. The Clerk has prepared an email address for public to comments.

Townhall internet access:

A Technician has been here to give technical advice on location of internet router. The company North East Connect will not charge to restring the wireless cables.

The current quote provided by the North East Connect would provide public and secured internet within the building.

To install public hotspot outdoors it will cost an extra one-time fee of \$867.39.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the installation of an outdoor hotspot for public use. If it becomes an exceptional monthly cost it will be revisited by the board. Motion carried.

ATV Signage:

The County has not posted signage and bike trail club has done some. The ATV club would be willing to install signs if the township purchased them.

Each sign costs \$272 from Mesabi Sign.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Schatz the purchase of two signs from Mesabi at \$272 each. Sup Chiabotti suggested to take the periods off the signs. Motion carried.

Sup Schatz asked why the “say no to the ATV corridor signs” have not been taken down. Members from the group said there is more work being done and they intend to leave the signs up to direct folks to the website.

ATV Meetings:

There are Two groups who are studying and pushing for ATV trails within Minnesota. Northeast Regional ATV Powers Board made up of County commissioners and ATV enthusiasts who are in favor of getting ATV trails established. That group meets every third Monday of the month. There is also an ATV Strategic Master Plan group. Sup Floyd thinks the ATV Master Plan group would be the best to work with in terms of planning.

Sup Floyd attended an online meeting and gave a suggestion that townships and cities can have more say on what goes into strategic master plan.

New Business:

North Country Trail Cooperation and participation:

Sup Soderberg gave an explanation of where the NCT trail could be located.

Sup Soderberg explained that it is a single-track hiking trail through the woods.

Sup Floyd has asked members of the township about their views on the trail running through the township and has not gotten any negative feedback. There was no objection from other members on the board.

Sup Soderberg is looking for residents of the township to work with the North Country Trail group.

Short term rental:

Sup Soderberg discussed with the township attorney, who explained that townships around the state are becoming concerned with short term rentals.

The township attorney provided an example of a moratorium and an ordinance regulating short term rentals. Sup Floyd modified these examples so they are appropriate for Eagles Nest Township.

The moratorium is good for a year while the township studies the issue and it either expires or is backed up by an ordinance to replace it.

St. Louis county does require that short-term rentals have a permit from the county. It is unknown if companies like VRBO and Airbnb require a property owner to provide these permits when listing a property.

The township may request public input on the moratorium. The moratorium will give the township a chance to halt short term rentals while it decides if it would like to make a township ordinance more restrictive than the county's current short term rental ordinance.

Sup Soderberg and Sup Sherman will gather more information and make necessary modifications to the draft township moratorium.

Watershed Planning:

Rainy River Comprehensive Watershed Plan to cover water management topics.

The Watershed group is seeking township input at an upcoming meeting. Sup Sherman will attend this meeting.

Sup Sherman will reach out to the lake association to see if they would like to provide representation at the meeting.

Greenwood McGrath Ambulance Study:

A study into if the area should have basic vs advanced life support, who would provide those services and if it financially viable.

The McGrath group has sent to all the townships a data request (documentation on file).

Chief Larry McCray has stated that much of what the data request is asking for is not applicable to the township.

Sup Sherman suggested that Chief should be the person of contact for the in-depth study.

The study is to figure out what makes the most sense as far as an ambulance service in or around Eagles Nest Township.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Floyd that Eagles Nest Township will participate in the study, that Chief Larry McCray will be the responsible party for completing the township response and when the response is prepared we will notify the contractor to visit us for further analysis of the township. Motion carried.

Supervisor Concerns:

Sup Schatz reported that the satellite toilet on Lake 2 was removed because DNR costs were cut and that happened to be one that was affected.

Sup Schatz stated that she had talked to a few people who stated that a true petition includes true signatures with addresses that is certified by the clerk and presented to the board.

Bun Van Deusen stated that the ATV trail group asked what was required for a proper petition with the State Attorney's office and the ATV trails petition met all the requirements of that office to be considered a proper petition.

Adjournment:

Sup Chiabotti moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk